available information is given as under:—

| Name of Public Sector Undertaking | Number of employees | Number of Scheduled Tribe employees |
|---|---|---|
| National Aluminium Co. | 3453 | 722 |
| Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. | 438 | 3 |
| Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd. | 85 | Nil |
| Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. | 57 | Nil. |

**Import of natural rubber and tyres**

1200. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of tyres imported after the announcement of the import policy; and

(b) whether Government have taken this into account while fixing the quantity of import of natural rubber and the corresponding reduction in the quantity of import of national rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No import of tyres have so far taken place under the scheme announced in March, 1988, for the import of specified categories of bus and truck tyres.

(b) Quality of natural rubber to be imported is decided on the basis of the estimated gap in demand and domestic supply.

**Flaring of Gas in Tripura and other N.E. States**

1201. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the natural gas discovered in the State at Tripura and other North Eastern States remains unutilised and the same is being flared up;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not using this rare resource;

(c) whether any schemes have been drawn up to make best utilisation of this gas; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No gas is being flared in Tripura. In Assam the flaring of gas has come down, over the last three years from 51 per cent to 34 per cent.

(b) to (d) There is scope for greater use of gas in Tripura and other North Eastern States. Supply of gas has been committed for the purpose of setting up new power stations in this area.

**Norms for supply of LPG to hilly and forest areas**

1202. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 63 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether in view of the peculiar conditions in hilly areas and forest regions any special norms have so far been devised to facilitate allotment of LPG distributing agencies/dealerships and LPG connections;